

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1422

To require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security and Medicare benefits under titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 1999

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. NEY, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. FILNER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. OLVER, Mr. WEINER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BROWN of California, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. STARK, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. NADLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FARR of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. COYNE, and Mr. BONIOR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security and Medicare benefits under titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Consumer Price Index
3 for Elderly Consumers Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ELDERLY CON-**
5 **SUMERS.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Bureau of Labor Statistics
7 of the Department of Labor shall prepare and publish an
8 index for each calendar month to be known as the “Con-
9 sumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers” that indicates
10 changes over time in expenditures for consumption which
11 are typical for individuals in the United States who are
12 62 years of age or older.

13 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Subsection (a) shall apply
14 with respect to calendar months ending on or after July
15 31 of the calendar year following the calendar year in
16 which this Act is enacted.

17 (c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
19 essary to carry out the provisions of this section.

20 **SEC. 3. COMPUTATION OF COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.**

21 (a) **AMENDMENTS TO TITLE II.**—

22 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 215(i) of the Social
23 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)) is amended—

24 (A) in paragraph (1)(G), by inserting be-
25 fore the period the following: “, and, solely with
26 respect to any monthly insurance benefit pay-

able under this title to an individual who has attained age 62, effective for adjustments under this subsection to the primary insurance amount on which such benefit is based (or to any such benefit under section 227 or 228) occurring after such individual attains such age, the applicable Consumer Price Index shall be deemed to be the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers and such primary insurance amount shall be deemed adjusted under this subsection using such Index"; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking "and by section 9001" and inserting ", by section 9001", and by inserting after "1986," the following: "and by section 3(a) of the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act of 1999,".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS IN APPLICABLE FORMER LAW.—Section 215(i)(1)(C) of such Act, as in effect in December 1978 and applied in certain cases under the provisions of such Act in effect after December 1978, is amended by inserting before the period the following: "and, solely with respect to any monthly insurance benefit payable under this title to an individual who has attained age 62, effec-

tive for adjustments under this subsection to the primary insurance amount on which such benefit is based (or to any such benefit under section 227 or 228) occurring after such individual attains such age, the applicable Consumer Price Index shall be deemed to be the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers and such primary insurance amount shall be deemed adjusted under this subsection using such Index”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply to determinations made by the Commissioner of Social Security under section 215(i)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)) with respect to cost-of-living computation quarters ending on or after September 30 of the second calendar year following the calendar year in which this Act is enacted.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE XVIII.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title XVIII of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 1814(i)(2)(B), by inserting

“(i) for accounting years ending before October 1 of the second calendar year following the calendar year in which the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act was enacted,” after

1 “for a year is”, and by inserting after “fifth
2 month of the accounting year” the following:
3 “, and (ii) for accounting years ending after
4 October 1 of such calendar year, the cap
5 amount determined under clause (i) for the last
6 accounting year referred to in such clause, in-
7 creased or decreased by the same percentage as
8 the percentage increase or decrease, respec-
9 tively, in the medical care expenditure category
10 (or corresponding category) of the Consumer
11 Price Index for Elderly Consumers, published
12 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, from March
13 of such calendar year to the fifth month of the
14 accounting year”;

15 (B) in section 1821(c)(2)(C)(ii)(II), by
16 striking “consumer price index for all urban
17 consumers (all items; United States city aver-
18 age)” and insert “Consumer Price Index for El-
19 derly Consumers”;

20 (C) in section 1833(h)(2)(A)(i), by striking
21 “Consumer Price Index for All Urban Con-
22 sumers (United-States city average)” and insert
23 “Consumer Price Index for Elderly Con-
24 sumers”;

1 (D) in section 1833(i)(2)(C), by striking
2 “consumer price index for all urban consumers
3 (U.S. city average)” and insert “Consumer
4 Price Index for Elderly Consumers”;

5 (E) in section 1834(a)(14)(D), by striking
6 “consumer price index for all urban consumers
7 (United States city average)” and insert “Con-
8 sumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers”;

9 (F) in section 1834(h)(4)(A)(vi), by strik-
10 ing “consumer price index for all urban con-
11 sumers (United States city average)” and insert
12 “Consumer Price Index for Elderly Con-
13 sumers”;

14 (G) in section 1834(l)(3)(A), by striking
15 “consumer price index for all urban consumers
16 (U.S. city average)” and insert “Consumer
17 Price Index for Elderly Consumers”;

18 (H) in section 1834(l)(3)(B), by striking
19 “consumer price index for all urban consumers
20 (U.S. city average)” and insert “Consumer
21 Price Index for Elderly Consumers”;

22 (I) in section 1842(s)(1), by striking “con-
23 sumer price index for all urban consumers
24 (United States city average)” and insert “Con-
25 sumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers”;

1 (J) in section 1882(p)(11)(C)(ii), by strik-
2 ing "Consumer Price Index for all urban con-
3 sumers (all items; U.S. city average)" and in-
4 sert "Consumer Price Index for Elderly Con-
5 sumers"; and

6 (K) in section 1886(h)(5)(B), by striking
7 "Consumer Price Index for All Urban Con-
8 sumers (United States city average)" and insert
9 "Consumer Price Index for Elderly Con-
10 sumers".

11 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
12 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to deter-
13 minations made for periods ending after December
14 31 of the second calendar year following the cal-
15 endar year in which this Act was enacted.

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